

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-25, 27-30 and 32-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 18-19, 23-25, 27-30 and 32-34 are amended; and Claims 26 and 31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.<sup>1</sup> No new matter is presented.

In the Final Office Action of October 16, 2008 (herein, the Final Office Action) Claims 18, 25 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Grynberg (U.S. Pat. 7,216,227); and Claims 19-24, 26-29 and 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Grynberg in view of Sasyan et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,804,247, herein Sasyan).

In response to the above noted rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 18, 23, 25, 28, 30 and 33 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 18, for example, recites a mail delivery system comprising:

an alias mail processing unit that receives an alias mail addressed from an originator address to an alias address generated from a recipient address and a predetermined generation argument, restores the recipient address and the generation argument from the alias address, replaces the alias address in the alias mail with the restored recipient address, and replaces the originator address in the alias mail with a reply destination address generated from the restored generation argument and the originator address to transfer the alias mail to the recipient address; and

a reply mail processing unit that receives a reply mail addressed from the recipient address to the reply destination address responding to the alias mail transferred by the alias mail processing unit, acquires the originator address and the generation argument from the reply destination address, regenerates the alias address from the acquired generation argument and the recipient address, replaces the reply destination address in the reply mail with

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<sup>1</sup> e.g., support for amended independent Claims 18, 25 and 30 can be found at least at Fig. 2 and its corresponding description in the specification, and support for amended independent Claims 23, 28 and 33 can be found at least at Fig. 16 and its corresponding description in the specification.

the acquired originator address, and replaces the recipient address in the reply mail with the regenerated alias address regenerated to transfer the reply mail to the originator address.

Independent Claims 25 and 30, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of amended independent Claims 18, 25 and 30.

Turning to the applied reference, Fig. 1 of Grynberg describes that a forwarding server 103 receives an e-mail message 102c addressed to an alias address 101b of a recipient 101 from a sender 102. The server 103 then filters the alias address 101b through a blocking list filter 103b and retrieves a recipient's true e-mail address from a database 103g including recipient profiles based on the alias address 101b if the alias address 101b is found not to be included in the blocking list database. The server 103 then forwards an e-mail message 103e to the retrieved recipient's true e-mail address. As noted at p. 3 of the Final Office Action, Grynberg does appear to describe that the alias address 101b may be generated by concatenating additional information to a recipient identifier, as shown by alias address 203b in Fig. 2.

Grynberg, however, fails to teach or suggest that a generation argument is restored from the alias address 101b to which the alias mail 102c is addressed, and that the sender's 102 address from which the alias mail 102c is addressed is replaced with a reply destination address generated from the restored generation argument and the recipient's 101 address, as claimed.

Further, Grynberg fails to disclose receiving a reply mail addressed from a recipient's 101 address to the reply destination address responding to an e-mail message 103e transferred from the forwarding server 103 to the recipient 101. Grynberg also fails to disclose that the sender's 102 address and a generation argument are acquired from the reply destination address, and that an alias address is regenerated from the generation argument acquired and

the recipient's 101 address. Grynberg further fails to disclose that the reply destination address in the reply mail is replaced with the sender's 102 address acquired, and that the recipient's 101 address in the reply mail is replaced with the alias address regenerated, as claimed.

Therefore, Grynberg fails to disclose a mail delivery system that includes "an alias mail processing unit that receives an alias mail addressed from an originator address to an alias address generated from a recipient address and a predetermined generation argument, ***restores*** the recipient address ***and the generation argument from the alias address***, replaces the alias address in the alias mail with the restored recipient address, and ***replaces the originator address in the alias mail with a reply destination address generated from the restored generation argument and the originator address*** to transfer the alias mail to the recipient address; and a reply mail processing unit that ***receives a reply mail addressed from the recipient address to the reply destination address responding to the alias mail transferred by the alias mail processing unit, acquires the originator address and the generation argument from the reply destination address, regenerates the alias address from the acquired generation argument and the recipient address, replaces the reply destination address in the reply mail with the acquired originator address, and replaces the recipient address in the reply mail with the regenerated alias address regenerated*** to transfer the reply mail to the originator address" as recited in amended independent Claim 18.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 18, and the claims that depend therefrom under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 25 and 30 also patentably define over Grynberg.

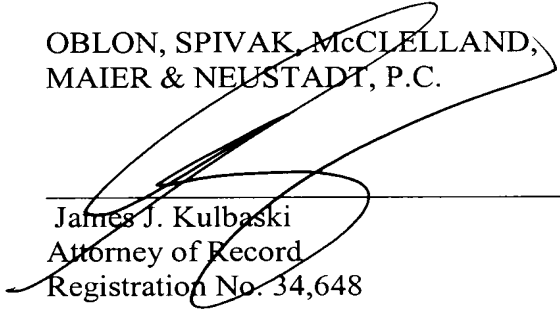
Regarding the rejection of Claims 19-24, 26-29 and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Grynberg in view of Sasyan, Applicants note that each of these claims

include the above differentiated features either by virtue of independent recitation or dependency, and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Sasyan fails to remedy any of the above noted deficiencies of Grynberg.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 18-25, 27-30 and 32-34 is definite and patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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